Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 07851 091325Z ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

-----091330Z 094935 /43

O R 091252Z MAY 77 FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4868 INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA AMEMBASSY JIDDA AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

SECRETCAIRO 7851

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR, US, SO SUBJ: US-SOMALI RELATIONS

REF STATE 102988,

1. HAD OPPORTUNITY LAST NIGHT TO DISCUSS REFERENCE SUBJECT WITH MINSTATE MOHAMED RIAD, WHO HANDLES AFRICAN AFFAIRS. TOLD HIM OF AMB LOUGHRAN'S UNSUCCESSFUL REQUEST FOR AN APPOINTMENT WITH PRES SIAD TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITY OF IMPROVED US-SOMALI RELATIONS. I RECALLED GOE HAD URGED US TO BE RESPONSIVE TO SIAD'S OVERTURES AND THAT PURPOSE OF LOUGHRAN'S CALL WAS TO DISCUSS WHAT WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO. REQUEST HAD BEEN MADE THROUGH DIRGEN SOMALI MOFA, BUT NO MEETING HAD BEEN SCHEDULED BEFORE SIAD'S DEPARTURE MAY 5 FOR ABIDJAN COM CONF. WE THINK IT ESSENTIAL THAT SUCH A MEETING WITH SIAD BE HELD AS FIRST STEP IN ANY EFFORT TO IMPROVE OUR RELATIONS WITH SOMALIA. SOMALI AMB ADDOU HAD MET WITH SEC-RETARY WHO OFFERED SEND AID TEAM TOMOGADISCIO TO STUDY POSS-IBILITIES OF US ECONOMIC AID. SECRETARY HAD RESERVED OUR POS-ITION ON MILITARY AID TO SOMALIA PENDING COMPLETION ARMS TRANS-SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 CAIRO 07851 091325Z

FER POLICY REVIEW. WE ARE FRANKLY PUZZLED AT SIAD'S FAILURE TO RECEIVE OUR AMB AND WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INTERPRETATION RIAD MIGHT HAVE.

2. RIAD SAID THIS WAS THE FIRST HE HAD HEARD OF THE AFFAIR. HE PERSONALLY KNEW DIRGEN MOFA, WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS SAID'S HALF BROTHER, BUT DID NOT CONSIDER LATTER TO BE PRO-SOVIET. HE COULD ADDUCE NO REASON FOR SAID'S FAILURE RECEIVE LOUGHRAN, BUT EXPRESSED PERSONAL VIEW THAT HE STILL HAS A FEW DOUBTS ABOUT THE SINCERITY OF SIAD'S PROTESTATIONS OF WANTING TO GET RID OF THE SOVIETS. HE THOUGH SIAD WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS IN TERMS OF ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE.

3. WHEN WITH FAHMY TODAY, I ALSO MENTIONED REFERENCE SUBJECT TO HIM. HE HAD ALREADY HEARD ABOUT IT FROM RIAD. HE SAID MFA HAD THIS MORNING SENT A MESSAGE TO ITS AMB IN MOGADISCIO TO URGE THAT SIAD RECEIVE LOUGHRAN. SAME TIME FAHMY COMMENTED HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND OUR ACTIONS. HE CLAIMED DEPT HAS JUST SENT A LETTER TO SEN JAVITS PLACING SOMALIA, AMONG OTHERS, ON WHAT HE CALLED "BLACK LIST" ON GROUNDS THAT IT HARBORS TERRORISTS. IF HIS REPORT CORRECT, HE DID NOT SEE HOW SUCH ACTION COOULD BE RECONCILED WITH OUR PREFESSED DESIRE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH SOMALIA. I TOLD HIM I HAD NO KNOWLEDGE ANY SUCH LETTER, BUT WOULD INQUIRE ABOUT IT.

EILTS

BT

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